

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 DOE-11 SOE-02 DOEE-00 OES-07
NEA-10 INT-05 AGRE-00 PM-05 ACDA-12 IO-14 COME-00
AID-05 OPIC-06 /126 W

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O R 181534Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4906
INFO USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GW, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TRANSLATION OF THE LEAD STORY BY
WOLF J. BELL IN TODAY'S BONN GENERAL-ANZEIGER:
"CHANCELLOR CONTINUES EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH CARTER
"SCHMIDT WANTS TO AVOID DIFFERENCES WITH U.S.
"DIFFERENCES ABOVE ALL IN FIELD OF ECONOMIC POLICY

2. "CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT INTENDS TO FORESTALL IN TIME A
NEW STRAIN IN GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, WHICH SEEMS TO
BE IN THE MAKING. FOR THAT REASON HE OPENED AN EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN DECEMBER, WHICH HE
INTENDS TO CONTINUE. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, WHICH
CHIEFLY CONCERNS ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, ALSO IS TO HELP
PREPARE THE VISIT BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT TO THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC IN JULY AND FOR SUBSEQUENT ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

3. "CARTER IS EXPECTED TO VISIT THE FRG FOR SEVERAL
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DAYS ON THE EVE OF THE FOURTH SUMMIT MEETING OF THE
SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, SCHEDULED
FOR BONN THE SECOND HALF OF JULY. IN EARLY JULY,
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT CHIEFS WILL MEET
ON GERMAN SOIL, FOR THE FIRST TIME TO BE PRESIDED
OVER BY SCHMIDT, SINCE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WILL TAKE
THE CHAIR IN EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP BODIES IN THE SECOND

HALF OF THIS YEAR.

4. "IN SPITE OF AN INCREASINGLY POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF CARTER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION BY GERMAN POLITICAL LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT QUARTERS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH, IN BONN'S VIEW, REQUIRE EARLY CLARIFICATION IN ORDER TO KEEP GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS FREE FROM TENSION. THIS APPLIES ABOVE ALL TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) "PEOPLE IN BONN TAKE AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL VIEW OF AMERICA'S DOLLAR POLICY, SINCE THE ANNOUNCED U.S. MEASURES (IN SUPPORT OF THE DOLLAR) HAVE NOT WORKED. INSTEAD OF TAKING CHIEFLY VERBAL ACTION, THE U.S. SHOULD, FROM THE GERMAN POINT OF VIEW, DECIDE IN FAVOR OF CLEAR AND SYSTEMATIC INTERVENTION IN MONEY MARKETS IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE DOLLAR AT A HIGHER LEVEL. EVEN THOUGH THE (GERMAN) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED ALL DOMESTIC POLICY OBSTACLES TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT, IT IS STRESSED THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GERMAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO UNDERTAKE NEW INVESTMENTS WOULD NOW BE JEOPARDIZED FROM THE OUTSIDE (BY A CHEAP DOLLAR).

(B) "FROM THE GERMAN POINT OF VIEW, IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THE U.S. TO TAKE ENERGETIC MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY CONSERVATION. BEING BY FAR THE GREATEST ENERGY CONSUMER IN THE WORLD, THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS FIELD. OTHERWISE, THE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR IN CONNECTION WITH GROWING AMERICAN OIL IMPORTS IS BOUND TO PROMPT THE OPEC COUNTRIES DRASTICALLY TO INCREASE OIL PRICES IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR.

(C) "CLEAR MISGIVINGS EXIST IN BONN IN REGARD TO CONTINUING AMERICAN ATTEMPTS TO BLAME THE FRG'S ECONOMIC POLICY FOR THE MISERY OF THE DOLLAR. BY SPENDING 27 PER CENT OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT ABROAD, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC MAKES A SUBSTANTIALLY BIGGER CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PARTNER COUNTRIES THAN DOES THE U.S., WHICH, IT WAS POINTED OUT, SPENDS ONLY 9 PER CENT OF ITS GNP ABROAD, AND THAT MOSTLY FOR OIL IMPORTS.

(D) "URGENTLY NECESSARY IS, IN BONN'S POINT OF VIEW, CLARIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN POSITION ON NORTH-SOUTH POLICIES AND BETTER COORDINATION OF THESE POLICIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS. THIS IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS OF 1978. PEOPLE IN BONN REGRET THAT WASHINGTON HAS REPEATEDLY SURPRISED ITS PARTNERS BY CONFRONTING THEM WITH FAITS ACCOMPLIS.

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(E) "IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY POLICY, THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE IN REGARD TO INTRODUCING THE NEUTRON WEAPON HAS GIVEN RISE TO CONCERN IN BONN. CARTER ACTED IN THE WRONG WAY, IT WAS POINTED OUT, BY TRYING PRACTICALLY TO SHIFT THE DECISION ON PRODUCING NEUTRON WEAPONS TO AMERICA'S ALLIES. BY DOING SO, HE GAVE THE SOVIET UNION AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF EXERTING PRESSURE. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THIS MISTAKE CAN YET BE CORRECTED.

5. "BONN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS DO NOT SHARE GENERALLY CRITICAL VIEWS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRAVEL POLICY AND OF HIS APPARENTLY CONTRADICTORY REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS. IN THE VIEW OF THESE QUARTERS, CARTER'S WORLD TRIP CLEARLY UNDERLINED AMERICA'S CONTINUING READINESS FOR LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. A VISIT TO THE FRG (BY PRESIDENT CARTER) HAD NOT BEEN DESIRED BY THE BONN GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME AND HAD NEVER BEEN A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. BONN TAKES AN EQUALLY POSITIVE VIEW OF AMERICA'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE

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MIDDLE EAST AND OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECLARED READINESS FOR CLOSELY COORDINATING HIS SALT POLICY WITH AMERICA'S ALLIES.

6. "GERMAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION IS A BASIC PREREQUISITE FOR A BREAKTHROUGH TO A COMMON POSITION OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ON THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SUCH A BREAKTHROUGH IS DESIRED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FOR THIS YEAR. HE IS FOR SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS BY MEANS OF CLOSE COOPERATION, BY OIL CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY, BY INCREASING EXPORTS TO OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, BY OPENING MARKETS FOR IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND BY STRENGTHENING MARKETS IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES BY INCREASING CAPITAL TRANSFER. MOREOVER, SCHMIDT CONSIDERS IT DESIRABLE TO INCREASE PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND TO EXPLOIT RAW MATERIAL RESOURCES IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF WESTERN ECONOMIC POLICIES VIS-A-VIS EAST BLOC COUNTRIES."
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